



Frequently Asked Questions About the New Russell Township Road & Bridge Levy

July 1, 2013

The Russell Township Board of Trustees and the Fiscal Officer propose that the Township undertake a new 1.10 mill continuing levy for the Road & Bridge Fund. This levy is designed to supplement the current long-range project of general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and repair of streets, roads, and bridges in the Township. This levy will serve to replace the 1.10 mills of funding previously provided from Inside Millage which has been redirected to the Township's General Fund. This levy will provide the necessary funds to continue self-sustainability of the Township's Road Department and paving efforts.

Historically, the Township directed 2.10 mills of its available 3.0 inside millage funding to Road & Bridge. However, with recent cuts in the state's local government funding and the elimination of the estate tax, it is necessary to retain 1.10 mills of that allocation for use in the General Fund to support its own operations. This new 1.1 mill continuing levy will be presented to voters at the November 5, 2013 election.

Question: How many miles of roads does Russell Township maintain?

Answer: Over 55 miles of roads are maintained by Russell Township.

Question: How many of those roads are currently paved with asphalt?

Answer: 40 miles are currently paved.

Question: Of those paved miles, how many have been resurfaced in the last 10 years?

Answer: 29 miles have been resurfaced within the last 10 years.



Question: How often, in general, does a paved road need to be maintained?

Answer: Paved roads must generally be maintained every 15 years.

Question: What is the surface of the remaining 15 miles of road?

Answer: The remaining roads have predominately chip and seal surfaces.

Question: How often must chipped and sealed surfaces be maintained?

Answer: Generally, chipped and sealed roads must be maintained every 5 to 6 years.

Question: What is the current cost of paving 1 mile of road?

Answer: Approximately \$150,000.

Question: How much does it cost to resurface 1 mile of road and have the road bed stabilized by cement?

Answer: Approximately \$225,000.

Question: Is the cost of resurfacing a road expected to increase?

Answer: Most probably. The cost of asphalt is directly tied to the cost of petroleum, which has increased and significantly fluctuated over the past few years.

Question: Why should Russell Township continue a road resurfacing project?

Answer: Being in the snow belt, the quality of the Township's road surfaces take a continuous beating. An ongoing program of identifying, prioritizing, and financing the resurfacing and repair of the Township's roads is a good business practice and is strongly recommended.



Question: How can the road resurfacing program be financed?

Answer: The repaving of Township roads is currently supported by two road levies. The first road levy was voted in 1976 at 1.80 mills with renewal or replacement every 5 years. This levy generates an estimated \$116,004 per year at 100% collection and costs the owner of a single family owner-occupied home with a market value of \$100,000 approximately \$14.09 per year. This 1.80 mill road levy expires in 2016.

In 1989 a 2.75 mill road levy was approved and has been renewed or replaced every 5 years. This levy currently generates an estimated \$693,513 per year at 100% collection and costs the owner of a single family owner-occupied home with a market value of \$100,000 approximately \$84.22 per year. This 2.75 mill road levy expires in 2013.

In addition to the above levies, the Road Department's efforts were historically supplemented by revenue directed from the township's inside millage in the amount of 2.10 mills or approximately \$529,410. The general fund finds that with recent cuts in the state local governmental revenue and the elimination of the estate tax it must reduce the amount of this supplemental funding to Road & Bridge by 1.10 mills (\$277,310).

The Board of Trustees and the Fiscal Officer are asking taxpayers to provide additional continuing levy funds to Road and Bridge in the amount of the general fund's reduction. This 1.10 mill levy will provide necessary funding to continue self-sustainability of the Road Department. This proposed levy will generate an estimated \$277,310 per year at 100% collection and will cost the owner of a single family owner-occupied home with a market value of \$100,000 approximately \$37.90 per year.

Question: Who would determine the priority of the resurfacing project?

Answer: The Road Superintendent would submit an annual list of projects to the Board of Trustees based upon his assessment of the most urgent needs for resurfacing.



Question: Can developments seek their own resurfacing program?

Answer: There are approximately 13 developments in Russell Township with homeowners' associations. The total road mileage in these developments is about 19 miles. The homeowners' association can request that the roads in the development be paved and have a special assessment on the homeowners to pay for the additional cost of resurfacing.

Question: How will maintenance costs be affected by the resurfacing project?

Answer: As more roads are resurfaced, it is anticipated that the costs of maintaining the roads would gradually decrease. The savings from the reduced maintenance costs will reduce the need for additional levies in the future.

Question: What if this continuing new levy is rejected by the voters?

Answer: If the voters reject the additional 1.10 mill levy at the November 5, 2013 ballot, it will be necessary to reduce the scope of the long term project on a yearly basis by the amount of the revenue reduction beginning in 2014. The Road Department will continue to maintain the roads at their present standards to the best extent possible within the existing budget.